

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (original) An isolated HXT3 hexose transporter or functional fragments thereof with an improved capacity to transport carbohydrates.
2. (currently amended) An isolated HXT3 hexose transporter having an improved capacity to transport fructose with respect to the capacity to transport fructose of a wild type hexose transporter having SEQ ID NO: 26.
3. (currently amended) ~~An isolated~~ The HXT3 hexose transporter according to claim 1, having an amino acid sequence ~~which is selected amongst from~~ the group consisting of:
 - a sequence derived from SEQ ID NO: 26 and having at least a mutation at a position selected from the group consisting of Gln 206, Leu 207, Met 208, Ile 209, Thr 210, Leu 211[,]] and Gly 212, ~~preferably at Ile 209; or~~
 - SEQ ID NO: 27.
4. (currently amended) ~~An isolated~~ The HXT3 hexose transporter according to claim 3, additionally comprising at least a mutation at a position selected from the group consisting of Met 324, Leu 388, Ile 392, Glu 414, Gly 415, Ile 449[,]] and Leu 471, ~~preferably being Met 324 Ile, Leu 388 Met, Tyr 389 Trp, Ile 392 Val, Glu 414 Gln, Gly 415 Asn, Ile 449 Val or Leu 471 Ile.~~
5. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid ~~sequence~~ encoding the HXT3 hexose transporter according to claim 1.
6. (currently amended) ~~An isolated~~ The nucleic acid ~~sequence~~ according to claim 5, having a sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 28, SEQ ID NO: 29 or a functional homologue thereof.

7. (previously presented) Recombinant yeast cell transformed with a nucleic acid according to claim 5.

8. (original) Process for obtaining a yeast cell with improved fructophilic properties wherein a yeast cell comprising a gene encoding an HXT3 transporter has been altered in such a way that the HXT3 transporter has an improved capacity to transport fructose, comprising the steps of:

- a. mutating the HXT3 gene and
- b. selecting the yeast cell with improved fructophilic properties.

9. (original) Yeast cell obtainable by the process according to claim 8.

10. (previously presented) Yeast cell according to claim 7, wherein the yeast is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *S. uvarum*, *S. bayanus*, *S. pastorianus* or *S. paradoxus*.

11. (previously presented) Use of a yeast according to claim 9 for fermentation of carbohydrates.

12. (new) The HXT3 hexose transporter according to claim 1, having an amino acid sequence which is a sequence derived from SEQ ID NO: 26 and having at least a mutation at a position at Ile 209.

13. (new) The HXT3 hexose transporter according to claim 3, additionally comprising at least a mutation selected from the group consisting of Met 324 Ile, Leu 388 Met, Tyr 389 Trp, Ile 392 Val, Glu 414 Gln, Gly 415 Asn, Ile 449 Val and Leu 471 Ile.